

# Kentucky’s Forest Resources

Forty-seven percent, 11.9 million acres of Kentucky’s total area, is forestland. Eighty-nine percent of this forest is privately owned by more than 300,000 small landowners. It is estimated that less than 12% of Kentucky’s annual timber harvest of more than 800 million board feet utilizes a professional plan. Of the 18.6 billion cubic board feet of timber currently estimated to be growing in Kentucky (43 % is classified grade 1 and 2). There has been a 6 percent increase in the acreage of sawtimber size stands in Kentucky’s timberland since 1988. Currently, sawtimber stands cover 65% of the timberland in the state. Since 1988 pole timber stand acreages have declined by 5 percent. It indicates the potential benefits for managing young stands to improve our forests for the future.

A large portion of Kentucky’s fish and wildlife species rely on our forest base for some or all of their life requirements. The rich diversity of our native plants and animals both contribute to and are a part of our forests. They are linked directly and indirectly to the health of Kentucky’s forests.

Kentucky’s streams and river banks are some of the most biologically diverse aquatic ecosystems in our nation. This richness is supported by clear, clean water flowing through dense forests. Today, Kentucky’s forestland still contributes to the water quality and diverse biota of our aquatic ecosystem.

Recreation is synonymous with forestlands and is a major industry in Kentucky. Much of the hunting, fishing, hiking, bird watching, and nature photography that occurs in Kentucky is supported by our forest base. The beauty of Kentucky’s forestland is well-documented. Beauty is a concept that is difficult to measure, but is certainly an attribute of our forests.

Forested wetlands also provide a wealth of benefits. These benefits include timber production, valuable fish and wildlife habitat, endangered and threatened species habitat, water quality enhancement, flood water reduction and retention, and nutrient recycling.

## What can you do to enhance Kentucky’s wealth of natural resources for yourself and for generations to come?

- Obtain and implement a multiple benefit forest management plan.
- Plant trees on marginal lands and practice reforestation after harvest to assure future timber production and provide other benefits.
- Improve timber stands by controlling species composition, timber quality, and competition.
- Implement practices to improve habitat for appropriate game and non-game wildlife.
- Improve fisheries habitat on existing streams, ponds, and lakes.
- Establish permanent vegetative cover and forest buffers, and stabilize stream banks for riparian and wetland protection and improvement.
- Establish permanent vegetative covers and water diversions for soil and water protection and improvement.
- Establish paths and trails, reduce stand density, and establish permanent vegetative cover to enhance forest recreation opportunities.

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*Form M-1A*  
*Revised 2/2005*

# Questionnaire/Application for Forest Stewardship Assistance

Landowners interested in Forest Stewardship Management should complete this form and return it to the Kentucky Division of Forestry, 627 Comanche Trail, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601.

I own \_\_\_\_\_ acres of forestland in \_\_\_\_\_ County, Kentucky,  
near \_\_\_\_\_ (city), on Highway No. \_\_\_\_\_.

I own \_\_\_\_\_ acres of forestland and believe that it is my responsibility to care for the land in such a way that future generations, as well as myself, may have all of the land’s benefits to use and enjoy. I further believe that the forest has a multitude of uses, including timber production, fish and wildlife habitat, scenic beauty, stable soil, production of pure water, and recreational opportunities. I am interested in professional management assistance so that I may care for my land in accordance with the Stewardship Ethic and thus enhance these forest values and achieve my personal goals and objectives.

I understand that, at no charge or obligation, a professional forester will walk over my property with me and will provide a written management plan detailing how I should proceed to accomplish my personal stewardship goals. I also understand that I may receive in-depth planning assistance from a biologist of the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources and/or from a field representative of the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service should fish and wildlife, forest watershed management, or recreation and aesthetics be my primary objective.

Name _____	Among the four specific stewardship values included in the program, please check the two areas of forest stewardship that most interest you from the following list.
Address _____ _____	
Telephone _____	
Home (____) _____	_____ Proper Forest Management
Work (____) _____	_____ Fish and Wildlife Management
	_____ Forest Watershed Management
Signature _____	_____ Forest Recreation and/or Aesthetics

Would you like a Forest Stewardship plan on CD-ROM?    \_\_\_\_ yes    \_\_\_\_ no

Where did you learn about the Kentucky Forest Stewardship Program? \_\_\_\_\_

## Kentucky Forest Stewardship Goals

The goals of Kentucky’s program are to:

- Increase the quality and quantity of Kentucky’s timber resource;
- Maintain and improve habitat for a diverse mixture of native wildlife species;
- Maintain and improve the Commonwealth’s forests as a source of high-quality water; and
- Manage and improve the diversity and quality of recreational opportunities and aesthetic value of the forests.

## How To Become A Kentucky Forest Steward

If you own at least 10 acres of forestland, you can become a Kentucky Forest Steward and have your property designated as a Kentucky Stewardship Forest. To do so:

1. Complete the attached forest stewardship questionnaire and return it as directed.
2. Work with your forester to develop a Forest Stewardship plan for your property. This plan must have a primary and at least one secondary objective.
3. Demonstrate your commitment to Forest Stewardship by working to implement the planned activities, increase natural resource productivity, and improve the environment for future generations.

**The Kentucky Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee, which oversees the Kentucky Forest Stewardship Program, is composed of individuals representing the following groups and state and federal agencies:**

- Forest Landowners
- Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts
- Kentucky Association of Consulting Foresters
- Kentucky Conservation Committee
- Kentucky Conservation Foundation
- Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources
- Kentucky Department of Local Government
- Kentucky Division of Conservation
- Kentucky Division of Forestry
- Kentucky Environmental Quality Commission
- Kentucky Forest Industries Association
- Kentucky Nature Preserves Commission
- Kentucky Woodland Owners Association
- League of Kentucky Sportsmen
- University of Kentucky Forestry Extension
- USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA)
- USDA Forest Service
- USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)
- MeadWestvaco Corporation
- Kentucky Nature Conservancy

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Kentucky Division of Forestry  
627 Comanche Trail  
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601

# The Kentucky Forest Stewardship Program



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*The wise use and management  
of our Commonwealth’s greatest  
renewable resource for our benefit  
and for generations to come.*

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*A cooperative effort of Kentucky’s environmental community.*

